Shazzbutt! is now...

THE FURY

SOOPHIE NUN SQUAD, FRONTSIDE, NERD NIGHT 2, REVIEWS, HIJINX, + MORE...

Shazzbutt

Champions Of Silliness sinc

Welcome to issue #11. Yeah, I changed the name. wasn't crazy about Shazzbutt! as the title, I s ed the zine as a side project while working on friend's zine Milpool and decided to keep the Simpson's theme going. The other thing you may noticed was how long it took this issue to com out. It's been my longest hiatis to date. Schoo work played a big role in that. I had a 30 page research paper, two 10 page papers, and an 8 pa in one semester. Needless, to say, after spendi 7 hours looking at microfilm from the 1800s, m paper work was not on my list of priorities. Th this Bullshit war came along, as well as a host of other issues to worry about. It can be confusing, but luckily here's a list of things for you, as an American, should be concerned with.

1. Terrorism
2. SARS
3. American Idol Finalists
4. SUV prices
5. prescription drug prices
6. Having enough flags on your yard.

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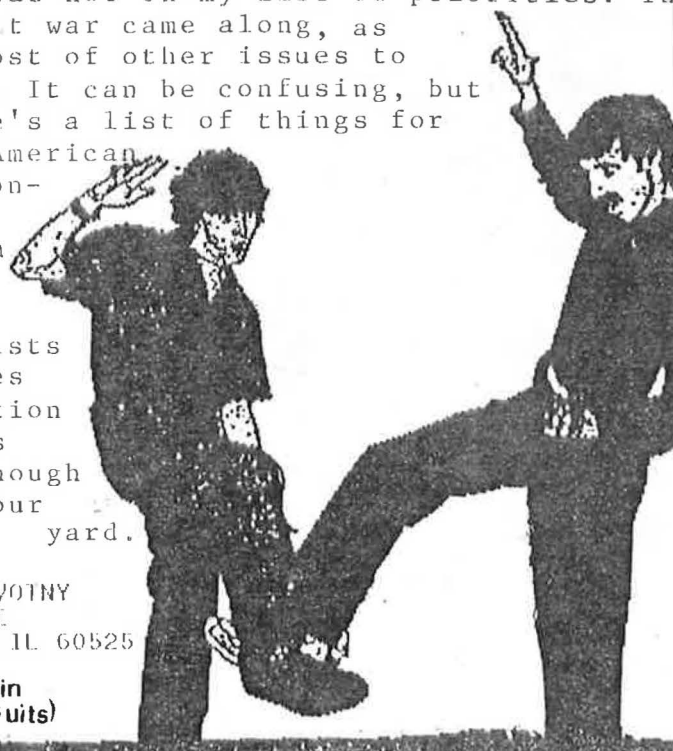

(colin and me in our jumpsuits)

ARAB ON RADAR

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NEXT ISSUE: SPLIT ISSUE WITH ANTHEMS FOR A DOOMED YOUTH ZINE.

COCA -/A/n/D/- * Capital

As reported By Adam Kader 8.12.02

The Coca leaf is appearing again in the corporate media. My most recent encounter with it was in the 5 August issue of Time magazine. As usual, the article does not represent an intent on the media's part to better inform its readership on developing world issues. Rather, the article narrowly defines the cocalero social justice movement as a drug cartel and a threat to the United States. Te article defends the U.S. Drug War by means of crop eradication and reproduces the dominant image of the developing world as inherently volatile and threatening; something which warrants the i9ntervention and management of the United States. Specifically, I object to the claim that the principal use of coca is for cocaine production. Secondly, I maintain that the U.S. drug war is a greater threat to Bolivian livelihood than the coca leaf is to ours.

The article I encountered, entitled "Taking the Side of the Coca Farmer", described the Platform of Evo Morales, Bolivian presidential Candidate and social activist. His political ideology is best described as socialist and his most important campaign is for an eradication of the U.S.-led drug war. During my Fall 2001 study abroad program in Bolivia, Morales was also a lecturer for my class during a week-long discussion on the "Drug War" in Latin America. It is understandable why the U.S. government would oppose him; he was not sensitive in the least to some of my classmates' protests that Bolivian farmers should be concerned with North American cocaine habits. However, Morales was also extremely compassionate for the masses of displaced workers who are struggling to make ends meet by growing the ancient indigenous crop.

It is absurd and arrogant to think that coca is grown in Latin America principally for our American cocaine appetite. I spent 4 months living in the first and third largest cities, as well as in a isolated rural region, and in all three locations I observed the extensive use and sale of coca. Daily, members of my host family (like fellow students' host families) chewed the leaf. I encountered workers, homeless people, and my own professors chewing coca. Coca is truly an integrated part of Bolivian life and culture. I think that we in the U.S. sometimes forget that coca is in fact a legal substance in Bolivia. Coca is a stimulant comparable in both effect and widespread usage to cigarettes or coffee in the U.S. Coca is no more a drug than coffee

and cigarettes are.

However, coca is different in two other respects. First, the leaf, which is chewed, has nutritious and medicinal qualities. Coca provides the chewer with calcium and smaller amounts of vitamins. Much of Bolivian populace is prone to a diet of limited nutrition, given Bolivia's dry soil types and poor infrastructure for food distribution. For Bolivians, (the majority of which still live in rural areas) daily diets consist of little more than potatoes. During the week I spent living with a rural family, I did not eat anything besides potatoes, rice, onions, carrots, chicken, and eggs. Nutritionally speaking, coca compliments a potato-based diet. Medicinally, coca may be used to treat an upset stomach. Travel guides recommend the consumption of coca (in its tea form) as the best treatment for altitude sickness. In fact, it is a safer alternative than the prescription drug Diamox, whose side effects are often more undesirable than those of altitude sickness (Young.319-320; 391). I can attest to the medicinal quality of coca; it alleviated the effects of my altitude sickness while in La Paz and Copacabana. It is no coincidence that coca has been used by indigenous populations of Bolivia and Peru who inhabit some of the highest altitudes in the world.

Second, coca has important cultural significance that predates the European raping of the region. To some indigenous groups, such as the Runakuna of Peru, daily life would be literally disrupted if the leaf were eradicated. Customs as simple as informal greetings involve a complex etiquette of coca sharing. Coca is present at all community, ceremonial, and religious events. Chewing the coca leaf is an affirmation of their indigenous identity; it is what makes them Runakuna.

Bolivia has always been a subject to imperial rule. From the violent Spanish conquest of the 16th century to the (still) violent North American economic control, foreign interests have always been a dominant voice in the institution of policy in Bolivia. Obviously, the forms have changed: originally, the Spaniards established complete hegemony over the native populations and created a system of forced labor. Today, fine establishments such as the World Bank(over which the U.S. has veto power in its decision making), not to mention the U.S. government itself, exercises political manipulation through economic aid packages. However, in one sense, imperial rule has remained the same through all these years: it has been conducted in the name of capitalism. More than anything, Spain created American territories in order to create wealth. The Spanish government supported western exploration because it ranked in a fifth (el Quinto) of all wealth acquired in the Americas. The Spanish business class of the 16th century profited by enslaving the indigenous populations to work in the Bolivian silver mines. In fact, the first independence movements from Spanish rule were led by this business class as to maximize their profits by eliminating the Spanish government's involvement.

Policies in Bolivia today represent the interests of the business classes of the U.S. and other nations. The New Economic Policy (NEP) of 1985 "devalued the exchange rate, removed price controls and subsidies, and reduced the state's role in social development by slashing public budgets in the health and education fields. Tax reform measures went into effect and workers had their rights to collective bargaining reduced through measures liberalizing employer regulations for hiring and firing"

(Healy 50). In the 1990's, the "Plan de Todos" encouraged further privatization. Today, more than half of such industries as public airlines, railways, telecommunications, and hydrocarbons are owned and managed by foreign business (Healy 51). Toilet paper is the only industry in which more than 50% is owned and managed by Bolivian companies.

Interestingly, U.S. free-market capitalism is largely responsible for the mass production of Bolivian coca in the first place. As a result of neoliberal reforms such as the NEP and "Plan de Todos", the mining industry (historically Bolivia's largest industry) was privatized and thousands of miners lost their jobs. However, far more people were affected than just these workers; most often they were the primary income sources for families. These families were forced to migrate because the mining region of Potos lacks any economic opportunities aside from mining. Families were not even able to remain in Potosi as sustenance agriculturalists, given the poor quality of land. Most of such families migrated to the tropical region of Chapare, where they could take advantage of growing the cash crop coca.

Evo Morales understands all of this, and as enough popular support to get elected into office. How much of his agenda that he will be able to implement once in office, however, is hard to say. If Morales is elected, we can be sure that the U.S. will find some way to override Bolivian democracy and dismiss him. We do it to any leader who doesn't play by U.S. rules. The recently failed coup of Venezuela's democratically-elected (and challenger of the U.S> policy) Hugo Chavez reminds us of that.

Like the so-called" War on Terrorism", the "War on Drugs" is a guise for the war o the world's poor; it is a war of the Global North versus the Global South; and it is war on any nation whose economic system is anything other than free-market capitalism. As Evo Morales plainly and rightly states in the Times article, "The drug war is just a U.S. excuse to control our countries."

Maintaining the dominant representation of coca as principally a cocaine source is horribly simplistic and ultimately quite damaging. While we, in the U.S., may support eradication initiatives (sometimes administered by undemocratic and human rights-violating forces) in the name of stopping cocaine business, we are ignorant of how these policies devastated the economic livelihood, cultural traditions, and health of millions. Such news sources as Time ensure that we the American populace, remain that way

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Healy Kevin. Lamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001

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FRONTSIDE

INTERVIEW

I interviewed Soophie Nun Squad in this issue and they played a laundry mat, you've played interesting venues as well, so you should, talk about them, how they came about...

Dave: (vocals) You got the parade.

Derrick: (drums) Alright I'll talk about the parade. I used to work at this place called Mailboxes Etc and this lady came in and was all frantic because she needed a band for the 4th of July parade in Hinsdale because she had booked it, but the band she had cancelled. She had found out that I was in a band and asked if we would play. We had to do, what was it 3 or 4 cover songs and a bunch of original songs and we would get paid for it.

What were your cover songs?

Mike: (Bass)We don't do covers. Operation Ivy.

Derrick: We don't do covers very well, it's usually my fault. We did Blitzkreig bop. We did a Blink 182 song. We did a Nirvana song and we did a bunch of half assed intros to a song. The float was a big truck pulling a trailer. On this big landscaping truck were football players and cheerleaders.

Ricky: (Vocals) It was the 8th grade team and incoming freshman and they had just won state..

Oh, that's a pretty prize float.

Ricky: We were supposed to tell everybody that they had won state and that they would be the new Hinsdale Freshman High School Football team..

Derrick: So then they were on the Float with us and we were in the back where Mike almost ruined everybody's equipment.

Mike: I'm surprised no body got those Cheerleaders numbers.

Derrick: Mike, we weren't dirty and greasy then.

Mike: That was before

Dave: 8th grade's a little low.

So how did Mike break everyone's equipment?

Mike: The float wasn't the sturdiest thing in the world, and I was jumping on one side of it, so it would go teeter-totter-teeter-totter

Derrick: So, like I'd be playing my drums and I'd hit it. It would be there for one hit, then I'd go back and hit it again and it'd be gone. It was kind of funny.

So did you guys get applause or did someone yell at you or anything?

Derrick: We got some applause.

Dave: Lots of stares.

Ricky: After the truck broke down and then we were walking away we, people were walking up to us saying "Nice job guys"

What about the Birthday Party or Enchanted Castle? Did you get to play in front of the animatronic band?

Sometimes your old singer returns dressed as a Mosh Mummy. Photo: Mark

Mike: Yes, we played in front of the animatronic band
Dave: It was one of my first shows
Derrick: We played behind the curtain
Mike: when we went on there was a guy named Prince Michael.
Ricky: And he was dressed like Prince Pumpernickel from the Princess Bride.
Mike: He wanted to introduce us really bad.
Derrick: And he wanted our autographs. They offered us all sorts stuff like drinks and pizza and free video game tokens
Dave: We each got a free pizza. We each got a free game of lazer tag and then like 5 dollars worth of tokens.
Mini-golf too?
Dave: Yeah. They did take care of us there and we tried to smash their stage.
Derrick: Mike slashed somebody's face
Mike: I jumped over the ropes and I did a

Photo: Mark

somersault and I slashed Dusty's face open and he came up to my afterwards and said "THAT'S SOO COOL" and I was like ok
Those ropes are there for a reason
Mike: yeah, for me to jump over.
Dave: They were challenging Mike.
Did you hurt any little kids?
Mike: No, no little kids got hurt. There were little kids watching us through the hamster pipes. And I think that Prince Michael introduced us as single bachelors. That everyone was single and that were we all available or something.

Derrick: Rick you're up; the birthday party.
Ricky: Shelly. We did a radio show at Northwestern, the only call we got was some girl named Shelly who wanted us to play her 18th Birthday. Then we gave her Derrick's number and she kinda hounded Derrick for a long time, so we were going to play it, we figured she would have lots of friends, but she didn't have any friends. It was just 2 friends in this VFW in River grove
Dave: Right by where the Thirsty Whale used to be.
Ricky: We played with Thumbfat and they thought it was kinda going to be the same thing as we did, but not at all. There were only 3 friends and one Mom, and the Mom was wearing moccasins and a leather jacket with fringe.
Derrick: That was before Dave was singing in the band and he was the only one out of all of us talking to her.
Ricky: And then we had a snowball fight with the other band and they tried to get in on it, then after they tried to get in on it, we just kinda stopped. Then Collin started throwing snowballs at them.
Dave: And they were slushy, they were slushy snowballs.
Derrick: And then for months afterwards Shelly would call me and say "I saw Collin today" and she kept talking about how cute Colin was.(More Shelly discussion goes on, then moves to lyrics)
Collin: (guitar) In whose fires shall you burn?
Dave: The lyrics are the question.
Ricky: I don't know, it depends. It varies from different person to different person. That's from "One Truth Divided" which is kinda about the Catholic Church and stuff like that. How everybody's so fuckin two-faced. It's kinda like they're going to be more judgmental and critical to you then, I

Photo: Dave48

Halloween Show

guess, God would be. So it's more like are you going to burn in the fires of hell? Or the fires of somebody else? So that's what that means

Gamara vs. Godzilla?

Derrick: That's a deep song

Dave: That's an homage to sci-fi thrillers.

Derrick: When Gamara fights Godzilla.

Mike: It's what inspired us.

Let's talk about Mike oppressing the kids in his class room. What do you do for a job Mike?

Mike: I'm a professor person and I teach sociology at DePaul University. Right now I'm teaching Race and Ethnic relations and I try to be ultra-racist in my classroom.

Dave: And it doesn't get a rise out of anybody?

Derrick: Mike is ultra-racist, like he normally is real life. Mike said many times he hates the "colored people"(joking, joking)

Talk about the time you cancelled classes for the week and made your students go to a Frontside show.

Mike: Periodically for extra credit, I will cancel class and try to get my students to go see punk shows so that, they can see what I do outside the classroom because I probably come off as some stiff white dude.

Derrick: Or a jackass

Mike: Or a jackass. well they think I'm a crazy Jackass instead of a stiff jackass.

Talk about how you got the job, what was it like a senior thesis?

Mike: I got my Bachelors and Masters at DePaul. I wrote my Master's Thesis(100+ pages) on sub cultures and how they possibly can turn into social movements. How punk rock is possibly an anti-capitalist movement. After I finished that and the department head was like "Hey you wanna teach?" and I was like ok I could do that cool.

What about the scene? What did you find out? Are we more politically inclined? Or is it that we just say we are, but no one really does anything.

Dave: I'd say a little bit of both

I could say that there's like an anti-PC backlash. People are so apathetic everytime someone talks about politics, they don't care Yeah there's definitely like a Meathead faction.

Mike: It's jocks all over again.

Dave: There's a lot of meat heads but there's a lot of people who really care

Mike: I think that what I was trying to argue mostly like punk creates a culture space, that offers the potential for politics to go on and in reality though the people who say they are political are not usually as political as they say they are and that's unfortunate.
Dave: I would say that most people who say their something aren't as into it as they say they are.
Collin: I'm a Human
Mike: You lie. You're an alien
Dave: You're part monkey
(Conversation steers to sexual partners, and then back to lyrics)
Ricky: Back to Better Days is about the guy that I used to work for, Tom Sullivan, he passed away from lung cancer and so I was still working for him at the time and

Photo: Mark

had a lot of... We had this office...
At Rail 3 , which was a cable show which branched out...
Ricky: Became a post production house. I worked on it for like 7 years. he passed away from lung cancer this past Halloween 2002. His brothers basically claimed everything he owned and stuff like that, including the building we were in and I had a bunch of stuff in the building and I was naive to believe that I could get it out later. The fact is I didn't get it out later. And they all went crazy and ruined all the shit that I had worked on for the past 7 years.
Tapes and stuff not your equipment.
Ricky: Yeah, like my portfolio. All the past videos I had done. So they stole it all and they were jacking me around and I never got any of it back. I'd get a lawyer but it was just a waste of time. So I wrote that song about it because it was pretty shitty, that he ended up dying and he shouldn't have died and that his brothers are fucken shitty assholes, who'll probably get theirs in the end, anyway. I don't know, it's just another reason not to trust anybody, that's what I think.
Do you wanna talk about any other songs?
Dave Surveillance is how I hate video cameras, like surveillance cameras
Collin: They treat you wrong?
Dave: I just object to the fact that people are recording my activities in public without my knowledge
Collin: So they're ok in Best Buy? They say it right on the door.
Dave: It's not ok anywhere. I don't agree with observing people through security cameras. I think it creates a state of fear and unkindness that we really don't need. It's pretty simple. ummm... Cheese and Crackers is about having a bad day.
Ricky: Cheese and Crackers was written by the old singer of this band, Tim. I think it's about he had Cauliflower ear, where your ears fill with fluid.
Collin: At the end of interview can we wish him and Dania the best on getting engaged..
Ricky: The song is about Cauliflower ear. He couldn't think of a name for it.
Colin: He quit the band before he came up with a name.
Mike: I wrote this song on the new CD called "Planes Crash Into Buildings"
Derrick: Tell them the whole title.
Mike: The real title is...(struggles for 2 minutes to remember, gets it wrong, then Derrick corrects him"...Planes Crash into Buildings when Economic, Social, Political Inequalities Persist. That song was about right after 9/11 when I was basically laughing at the TV because I thought it was funny.
Derrick: Mike called me at 8 in the morning. "Look at the TV, Planes are crashing into buildings. It's so awesome on a global, economical, social..."
Dave: We're not all Terrorists
Mike: I'm not a terrorist either but I still though it was pretty amazing in a bad way.
Dave: I think there are real reasons that planes do crash into buildings that we're trying address in our songs that most of the American public overlooks.

Mike Broke his bass on tour, bought a new one and broke it 2 weeks later. He then took the body of the first and the neck of the second and built a New bass, but broke that one too. Photo: Mark

Well it's obviously awful that, what was it 4,000 people died, but at the same time, it was like what goes around comes around. It was bound to happen, it's a shame that it did happen, but it happened. But, there's a reason. It showed that lots of people hated us(America), especially with the US invaded Iraq and the United Nations being against us. Do you think that people actually learned their lesson or do you think that they're more blindly patriotic now. Ok those people died, the sales of American flags went through the roof, what does that mean? Do we feel bad for them or we're proud to be Americans because those people died.

Mike: As far as seeing the way my students, react to all the stuff, it would appear that people have not necessarily learned the lesson, people still don't know why anyone would crash a plane into a building or doing anything that's terroristic. But at the same time too, there's also critical of the American government. Maybe not critical, in the way that I would like them to be critical. But still they're like no one is going to steal a plane and crash into a building like that. There has to be some kind of impetus to make someone motivated enough to do that or create an environment where that will happen. That's what I'm saying people are angry but they're not sure why, especially when the planes crashed there was a lot of talking in nouns, This is happening there at this time, but no one ever asked why. **What do you think about that?**

Mike: People don't have an understanding of history in America. I think that's the big reason that they don't know what's going on and why things or don't happen. Until people start to understand a little about how their individual lives tie up with historical snit, we're still going to be in the same place as we are now.

Derrick: I don't think people understand current events. I think a lot is they do believe what they are told and then when something crazy happens and a new explanation is given in hopes that they believe that as well I think that has a major factor in why people get angry is the fact that they know something's wrong

Photo: Dave48

Dave took these photos before he was in the band. They look amazing in Color, because the lights are all crazy and swirly, maybe it's because he Smokes 3 lbs. of weed a day. Check www.killfrontside.net for his photos.

and the explanation that they are given doesn't necessarily match up, with why something like this, of this magnitude, would happen

Dave: I don't think people question it at all. I think they're very blindly patriotic, like a lot of people, not everybody, especially not people in the punk rock scene. But I'd say the majority of the population just accepts.

Derrick: I don't think they're blindly patriotic, I think they are more patriotic out of fear. Like they're scared that if they disagree, then it's gonna happen again or something's going to happen to them personally.

How do you teach them that history? How do you change that? Do you think that all this shit that's happening with Bush, some would say, going off the deep end. Do you think it's going backlash because of that?

Mike: Historically speaking, you have these periods of time where there's progressive movements going on and then there's a backlash. This current thing I look at it, as you had everyone's consciousness being raised like the IMF, World Bank, the protests, the battle in Seattle, stuff like that. People were sort of starting to comprehend what capitalism sort of does on a global level, but then you have the terrorist stuff going on and that makes them stop thinking, because they're scared and also I don't think that people have the time to think necessarily, to think out these issues enough, where they could actually start something. The reaction, you can't get past that There's this cycle going on and it's much easier to teach people about history when you're in a period of peace then when planes are crashing into buildings and if you say anything that's dissenting, you're considered a terrorist, even though you're trying to get people to think for themselves, you know, trying to give them the tools. The big thing with sociology is that if you were to practice sociology it's like a martial art, in that everytime something happens you question it what it is about the social background or the individual. If people could even do just that much, there might be something interesting going on.

Dave: I think progressive people have been lumped in with the terrorists after

9/11. It was kinda a big blow to a lot of liberal movements. Like if you question the government, you're anti-American. Because that's the basis of America, they(founding fathers) questioned their government(Britain).

There was some survey poll where they showed people the Declaration of Independence and so many people didn't recognize it and found it to be a too radical document.

Dave: That's like the basis of our government, you know whatever that means.

Mike: When you're teaching you try to get people to have conversations with each other and it can't be something that's guided by you. You have to get people to ask questions themselves and that part is so...

Ricky: The way the America learning works.

Dave: You are just taught to regurgitate facts in High School or even college, a lot of it

Mike: Yeah, people are really afraid in my class...like of me.

Dave: Yeah, when we play shows, people tend to walk away from you because you'll hit them with your bass.

Mike: I think it would be interesting to get people to even understand what democracy is. That starts a process of getting people to do things and change things, like "Oh, There's supposed to be a social contract between the people and the government. That's interesting" So I don't know what it does, I couldn't quantify it or anything, getting that information out there might start something.

(About half of this interview was about cut down, mostly the parts where Frontside rambled on embarrassing each other, like Derrick humping a stripper, which came up like 3 or 4 times.)

Derrick: If you include the fact that I slept with a stripper, you have to include the fact that Mike slept with 3 students.

Mike: I only slept with one!

Derrick: No you didn't

Mike: Well technically, I slept with 2, but only had sex with 1.

Dave: Like sleep, sleep, snoring sleep?

Mike: Yes

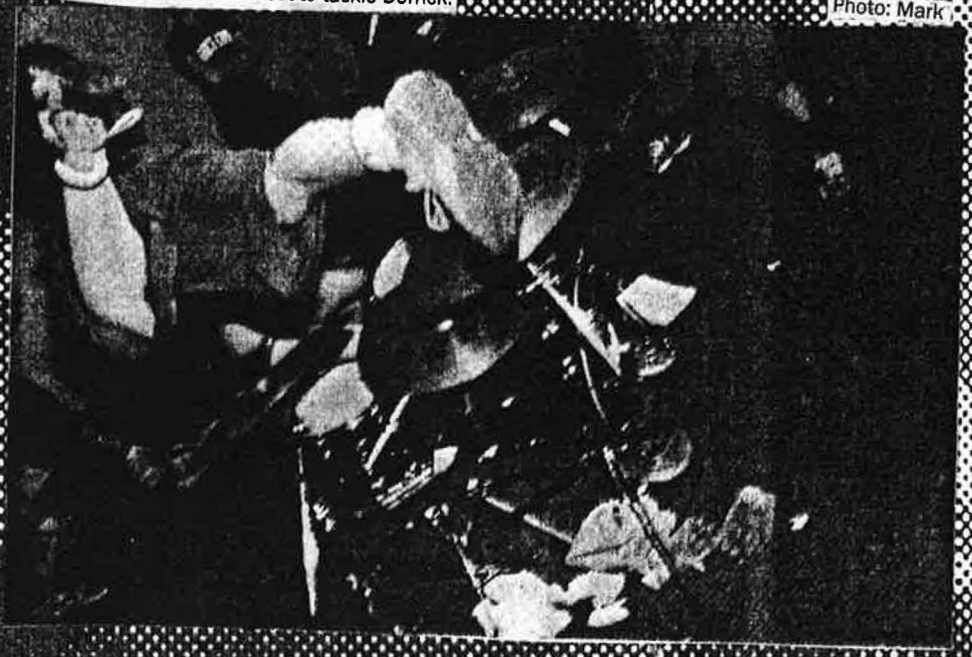
Ricky: But now he's dating Marsley, rhymes with Parsley

Mike: Yeah, and she's not a student, and hopefully if things work out I won't be able to sleep with students till I'm about 60.

Derrick: Then you'll start up again...with your old wrinkly dick...and old grey balls.

Craig jumps the drum set to tackle Derrick.

Photo: Mark



REVIEWS

Baxter-2xCD
Will Not Clear Man Records
(PO Box 911 Elgin, IL 60121)
Before this CD came out, Baxter had a discography on tape. It turns out that they had even more unreleased songs. This CD is over 2 hours long. Members of Baxter went on to Lawrence Arms, (early)Honor System, Rise Against, The Killing Tree, Arma Angelus, etc. If you've never heard Baxter, think of a catchier 400 years or Sleepytime Trio. Definitely a necessity to pick up, if you enjoy any of the bands listed in this review. The lyrics to the last song(which was recorded on R. Kelly's studio time, when he was out of town) kind of threw me though "I use my fingers to touch my sweat and then I rub it all across my chest. I stick my fingers down my butt and bring it back up to my nose to smell. I wipe my hands across my sweaty body and use it for shampoo" What a kook!

Black Print-Demo CD
(Passtheshank@yahoo.com)
Black Print features ex- members of John Brown Battery, who were at great band. If you never heard JBB, think of Small Brown Bike, Hot Water Music, Planes Mistaken for Stars,etc. Black Print is more straight forward, less frills. This isn't as exciting as JBB, but this is just the first effort, the band needs time to grow. This demo isn't essential, but I'd keep an eye out for this band in the future.

Bleeding Kansas/La Mantra de Fhigria-split CD
Arms Reach Recordings
(1220 W. Hood Apt #1 Chicago, IL 60660)
The La Mantra de Fhigria side is so totally awesome. They play screamo math rock stuff, I dig this genre but most times the bands that play it sound repetitive or generic, it takes a lot of skill and talent to do it well and put out something original and exciting. La Mantra does this, it jumps and bobs and stays fresh with two singers yelling over each other. They are one of the most overlooked bands in Chicago. Bleeding Kansas needs a new singer. The music starts playing and I'm all 'yeah I can dig this' then the vocals come in and ruin everything.

The Braves-This is the Hot Part CD
Arms Reach
I found this to be too slow indie rock stuff. The song titles were clever though. For example one songs called "No we didn't" and the next one's called "Oh yes we did" (Hey Kevin, Jordan was supposed to write a review of this. He was going to call it "groundbreaking" or "pretentious" or something. Don't quote me on that though. He was pretty busy. He made out with like 6 girls this year. Hey remember when you used to live with Courtney? I like Courtney, he's a good guy. Except for that time he almost accidentally killed me coming back from Kentucky.)

Chalet Chalet-s/t CD
Walk in Cold Records
(8408 Lakeside Drive, Downers Grove, IL 60516)
Dude, one of these kids used to be in the Modocs. Oh man, "Refugee Road Race"? Remember that shit? The music is poppy and sporadic. It has a jumbled angular quality that's kinda rocking. It would sound decent if a couple of things got changed or the songs were restructured differently. These vocals have to go. They ruin it hard. The 4th song has a fake needle hitting the record sound which I think is completely stupid to put on CDs. Oh wow, your CD sounds like a record, yeah dude that's just great. 4 songs.

Choke their Rivers with our Dead-CD
(Nkingghidrax82@hotmail.com)
Good Simpson's reference with the name. 4 songs in 13 minutes. Gruff vocals, distortion, metal. The 4th song, probably the best on here, shows interesting song structure, going into more math rock stuff. This stuff is ok. Limited to 9c, so you probably can't get your hands on it, but the songs will be released on their full length.

Destroy the Foundation-Blood and Concrete CD
((1754 West Bell Plaine, Apt. G Chicago, IL 60613)
This is a demo. Members who were/are in KungFu Rick, HeWhoCorrupts, Frontside, Suburban Refugee, and Audience of the End among others playing heavy hardcore with crust and sludge influences. Given the previous awesome-ness of the former bands you should check it out. 6 songs in all, but the CD is only 1 track long.

HeWhoCorrupts/3rd Degree-Split 7"
Self Made God Records
(PO# 46 215000 Biala Pool Poland)
HeWhoCorrupts offers up their grind core-porate schtick. This is from their first recording session(before Zach joined the band) so it's less tech and sounds more like a traditional grind band. Third Degree is from Poland, but all their lyrics are in English. I see more and more records like this. It always reminds me of this article by Helena Norberg-Hodge in this book, The Case Against The Global Economy. It's about the people of Ladakh, a province in Kashmir. It was a place left out of the modern world and once tourism came into the region, they became ashamed of their cultural roots. Before outsiders would visit, they felt that no one in the villages were poor and they lived well off lives, but later they would be overheard asking the tourists for money, exclaiming "We're so poor". Their traditional singing was no longer any good, and the little girls would emulate Madonna instead. She writes "Education was the product of a person's intimate relationship with the community and the ecosystem". It wasn't a formal education, but once schools popped up, they had a Eurocentric courses that taught them about unrelated topics to their daily lives. Can you imagine memorizing the quadratic formula or learning about photosynthesis in a small barren village instead of the traditionally taught topics like house building or how to make shoes out of yar skin? Isn't it just as pointless to scream at a crowd of people in your community in words they don't understand?

HeWhoCorrupts/Infestation of Ass-Split 7"
Rescued From Life/Compulsive Blasphemer/Anthem for Doomed Youth
(doomedyouth.com)
I was in the car with my friend Ben when he put on a Strike Anywhere CD. I said they sounded too snowboard for my tastes. He said you can't say a band is snowboard it doesn't mean anything. I replied that I can do whatever I want. I'm a record reviewer I can talk about Three's Company episodes if I want to. Anyway HeWhoCorrupts is real horror show on this record. And if someone asked me to sum up IGA in two words, I'd have to say Adult Acne.

The Killing Tree-Bury Me at Make Out Creek CD
Another good Simpson's reference. 4 songs here. It's the singer from Baxter and Rise Against but in a band that is more MTV2 melodic chugga influenced. This I don't dig.

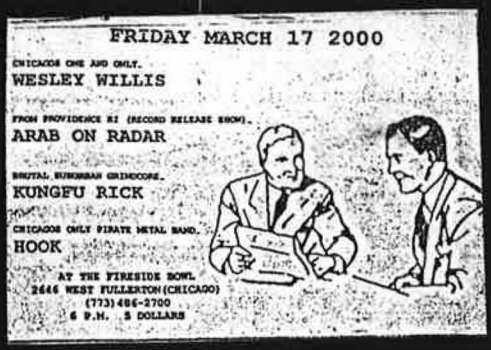
KungFu Rick-Coming to an End 12"
625 Thrashcore
(PO Box 423413 San Francisco, CA 94142-3413)
God bless the Dark Enforcer. I heard that when KungFu Rick played with Living Sacrifice there were these Christian girls who were there. They thought KungFu Rick was possessed by the devil and were praying for

their souls at the show. A story like that's got to be true. Straight from the devil's mouth comes KFR's final release. They still bring the same brutal hyper-fast grind with 2 vocals. This time around instead of rewriting the same songs they mix in slower parts in order to "punish" more when it speeds up. If you're a fan of any of their previous stuff, you should definitely give this a listen. Also in the rumor mill, I heard Darkin was the one going around and slashing all those brunettes around DePaul's campus. I heard he was quoted as saying "I spilled their blood like the semen onto an 8th grader's stomach alone in his room on a half-day of school" That kid's got too much time on his hands

KungFu Rick/The Ultimate Warriors-Split 7"
Robotic Empire
(12001 Aintree Lane, Reston, VA 20191)
The Ultimate Warriors have 9 songs of super total destructatron. It stabs all the way through. It's violent, ugly, outbursts of hyper fast riffs and breakneck drums that falls apart and then picks up itself with crazed samples dispersed everywhere. If the name didn't tip you off, they're way into wrestling. One of the songs is an eleven year old boy's letter sent in to a 1984 issue of a wrestling magazine and another is about an obscure Japanese ultra violent League. The KungFu Rick stuff is ok. It's only one song for their side. That's like writing a rock opera for these guys, still it'd be better if KFR just did Queen covers at 1,000 mph.

Lying in States-The Bewildered Herd CD
Harmless Records
(1218 w. Hood Ave Apt. #2 Chicago, IL 60660)
Lying in States is from Chicago and play Alternative Rock. It makes me sad. 6 songs in 41 minutes. If you're into slowed down indie rock...

Psychic X-DVD
(rydermaicom@netscape.net)
I don't know why this was sent to me. It's a cable access show from the mid-nineties, and is pretty bad. There doesn't seem to be a point to any of it.



Scholastic Deth-Killed by School 7"
625 thrashcore
Ripping thrash set to poems about Hersey, scene problems, and a love of literature. The songs are shorter and faster and more thrown together then their previous stuff, but still just as tabular (tubular? TUBULAR!). I highly recommend it. This is their 3rd and final 7". You might be hesitant to buy this 7" because a discography will probably be out by the time you read this.

Tusk-Get Ready CD
HeWhoCorruptsInc.
(196 Fairfield Elmhurst IL 60126)
Noise Mosh. The cover looks like 70's stoner rock album, it's out of sight man. This album is more noise oriented than their split with HeWhoCorrupts. I put this on and like to dream about cosmic dolphins swimming through the Milky Way and then a Lion appears to do battle with the majestic mammals of the sea when the hella mosh kicks in. I'd say they are better to see live, because while they are a good band, this release lacks a hard edge.

Twin Wrecks the Memory/Jesus and the Devil-split7"
Fudge Sickill Records
(PO Box 7052 Villa Park, Il 60181)
Jesus and the Devil play alternative rock mixed in with vocals that have that new sassy rock out vibe(think Hot Hot Heat, the Hives, etc.). It's ok if you like that style. Twin Wrecks the Memory play about the same but sass-less. Both bands have that "matured" post-punk sound. I don't get anything from the lyrics or the music. P.S.-The layout looks totally boogers.

V/A-Deathmatch!!! Chicago Vs. The World CD
EA Records
(201 E. Fullerton Elmhurst, IL 60126-1775
38 songs, half from Chicago and half from else where. This was supposed to come out years ago. But the art work got lost and a bunch of other setbacks happened, but it was still put out.
It has Generation Waste(who I used to sing for),along with My Lai, Authority Abuse, MK Ultra, Ambition Mission, Pronounced Dead, KungFu Rick, 7000 Dying Rats, Hellnation, Thoughts of Ionesco, Capitalist Casualties, Gob, and The Ultimate Warriors.

Reagan proposed as new name for state

LAGRANGE PARK ... My comments were sought in the matter of whether to drop Chief Illiniwek as the University of Illinois' mascot.

In answering the university's request, I discovered some interesting items.

The state of Illinois is named for the Illini Indians, the —ois being French, and meaning "land of" or "property of."

Primarily, Illinois was named for the Illini Indians, whose major accomplishment was their near-total loss at Starved Rock. Was Illinois named out of sorrow or loss?

The Illini built no permanent buildings.

They had no travel or transportation, except by foot.

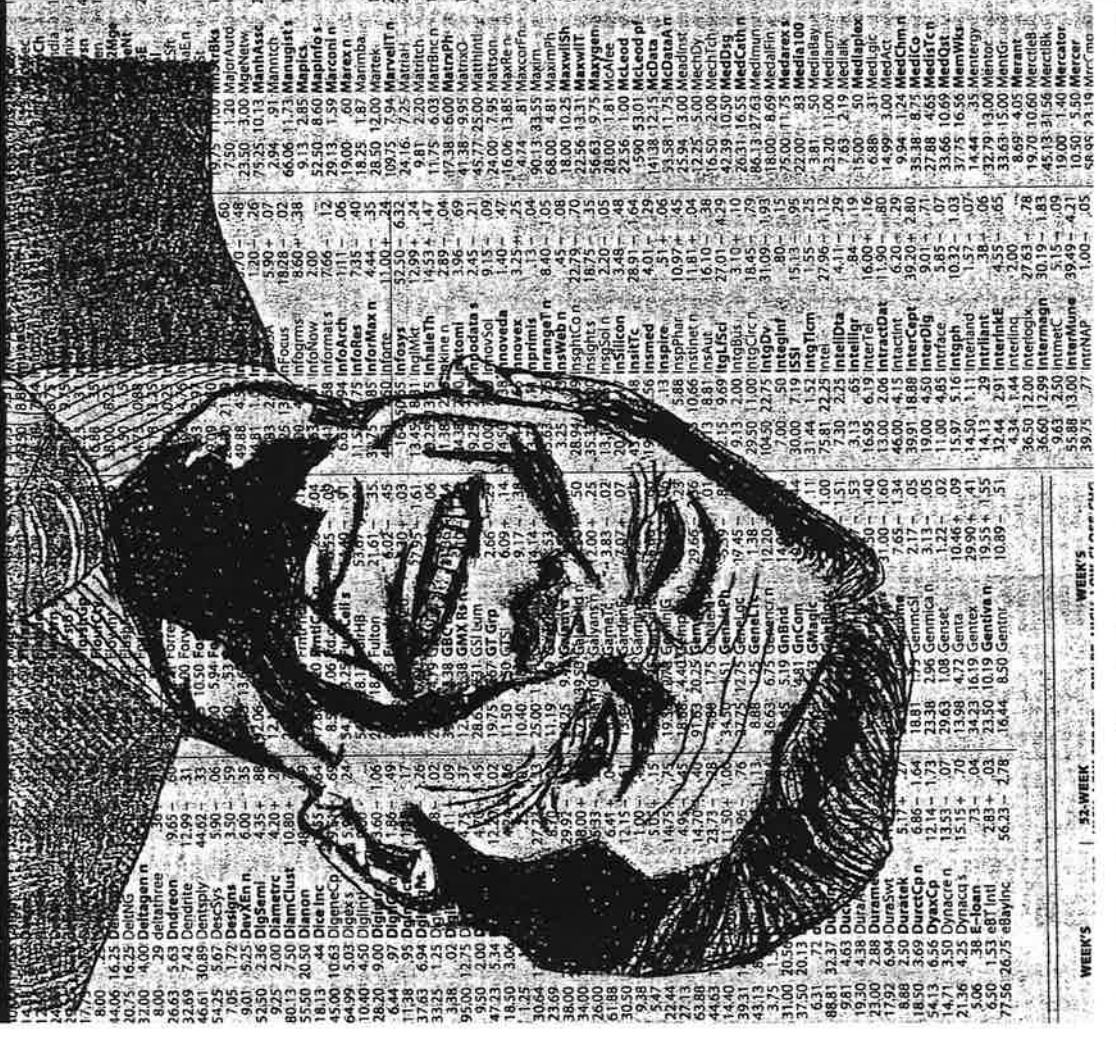
They had no glass, plastics, or metals.

They left no written work.

They may have had horses, but only 50 years before the French discovered Illinois, run away from the Spanish in Mexico.

Without buildings or clothing, they could not exist in the winter, north of St. Louis. They attended northern Illinois only in the summer or fall to hunt or gather food. They had to return to warmer climates on foot, with whatever they hunted or gathered, on their backs.

You would not want to be an Illini, or want your children to be.



This letter was written to the local paper. I won't go on about how dumb the ideas are. Hopefully my readers will question the racism, arrogance, and inane rambling. You know stuff like, "Wait, didn't Reagan ruin the economy? And wasn't he just a crumby old fart who had no idea what his adminstration was doing?" as well as point out that horses were not indigenous to N. America. "I don't understand. Is he calling indians stupid because they didn't build their own horses out of spare buffalo parts or because they didn't invent plastic, a by product of oil, years and years before anybody even used gas?" No, that is not what this article is about. The point is that he used the newspaper to express his view. We have protests and sit-ins to raise awarness, but rarely discuss our beliefs with those around us. The momentary akwardness prevents us as we let one more racist comment from our Uncle Herb to slide. It goes unopposed like this article. Think of how many times a simple phrase or new viwpoint changed your mind on a topic. To be radical means to actually talk to people in an intelligent manner. Day to day relations will envoke more social change than a hundred protests pleading to the ears of strangers. I like to think about the time Andy told me about the time his Mom was telling her friends about the time I duct tapped my feces to the ceiling of a frat house. I imagine them giggling about what happens when someone pulls off the tape and the turd falls. I find it funny, but I would find it a lot more amazing if I could get a bunch of middle aged women discussing the pros of throwing a brick through a Wal-Mart window.

All of this, and more, made me wonder why Illinois was named for losers. How can we be proud of losers? Imitate them?

It's time to change Illinois' name, to change our negative background influences into pride.

This letter proposes the new name, "Reagan."

Ronald Reagan was born, raised and educated in Illinois. He was likely the best, strongest American President of the 20th century. There's only one state, Washington, named for an American President, and he wasn't born American.

We will be prouder of ourselves if we have a strong identity. ... Guy Louis Calhamer

nerd night 2

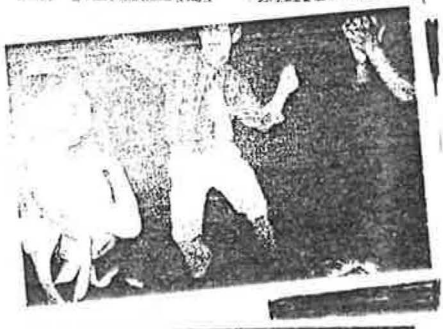
The Concept of Nerd Night is pretty simple: Dress up like a bunch of geeks and go out to dance clubs. This tradition dates back to 1998. The place: Zero Gravity, the Chicago-land area's hottest pre-teen dance club. I neglected to go the first time, about 14 people did go and returned with stories of lustful booty dancing and frequent incidents of pleasure spanking. When the 2nd time for Nerd Night gathered, I decided to throw my hat into the ring. I was told there was a whole group of message board dorks intent on going. One's parents even owned a chauffer company, which would lend us a limo for the night. In the end all their talk faltered and the 3 die-hards; Me, Jason and Mike transformed ourselves 1into Spencer, Randall, and Eugene. We dressed to the nodes complete with sweater-vests, bow ties,

argyle socks, yo-yos, chess sets, calculators, pocket protectors, and more. I must say we were looking hotter than the end product of mixing sodium broximide with hydro-clothoyne. Sizzle. We were feeling good, but the

night clubs don't start swinging until about 11:30. We had some time to kill, so as a warm up we went to a carnival. We flipped out all the morons that go to carnivals and high school emo girls. Then we danced a little in front of the cracker blues band and visited with our friend Derrick, who was working the sound. He was too serious to talk to us(side note: He wasn't too busy when he used his job to try and hit on the Go-Gos).

When we got to the club, (which was called Criteron? Sintron? It was a strange combination with an S in the middle, or probably a Y or Z or some other exotic letters that ravers enjoy because it sounds like a rare metal or a drug from the future. I guess you have to have a flashy name in order to justify the $10 drinks Mike and Jason ordered. I, on the other had, successfully snuck a bottle of water in my crotch) we were on the guest list. The place was dead when we walked in. The 2nd floor DJ came out instantly and gave us a rave flier with a photo of him and a naked chick. "You guys are the most amazing people" he said. This was one of two reactions we would get. People loved the nerds. People who go to dance clubs lead the most boringest lives. We were like Gods to them, Gods formed from stone and skilled with superb mathematical and scientific prowess. It was not uncommon for me to hear "You guys are soooo awesome" or "You are soooo hot"(one girl said this to me and lightly grazed my thigh with her hand in one smooth motion. I wonder if girls practice that stuff. I have always been a huge admirer of the female gender). The girls always wanted to take their photos with us or to dance with us. One even asked Jason to go to bed with her.

Like the loser DJ, guys were also enamored with us. There was one guy we kept running into at the bathroom, who would say, just answer me one question, What came first the Chicken or the egg?" To which I would reply "Well, that depends if you believe in the classic Darwinian theory or the revisionist model set forth by Dr. Phillip Mackie at the Philadelphia institute of..." to which he would ask even louder. Another admirer was this hipster doofus in a modernized zoot suit. He would walk around in full rico suave mode and say "hey" whenever he walked past. We would tell the girls we were with" We know that guy. He's a cool dude. We're down with him" and they would stare deep into our glasses and fall further in love with us. The other reaction was these macho guys who didn't appreciate our geek sheik. We got called "fags" and one dude even called us "Saved by the Bell schmucks" as tough as he could.



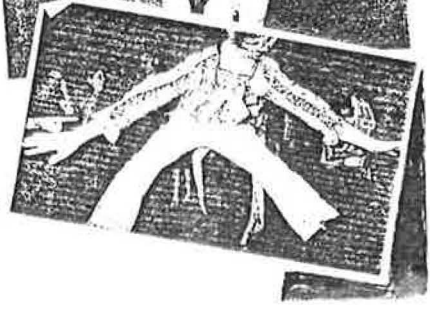
We all got tough guy stares as their girls wafted across the dance floor to shake it with us. There was a couple of times when a girl would boogie down with one of us, just dancing and having fun, while her man would constantly tug at her waist to pull her away from the nerds. Some people just didn't get it. A group of girls asked us what agency we were with. She said she had tried before to order nerds for her party. "Agency?" we said with puzzled looks on our gorgeous faces. I responded with " We're not male models or gigolos. We don't have an agency. What are you talking about?"

We mostly danced, but we would try to socialize as well. We went around with our physics book quizzing each other and talking about the chess club or mathletes. People would laugh along with us, but then get bummed out cause we wouldn't let up on the joke. Mike would just play with his yo-yo and I would ask girls what they got on their SATs as a pick up line. Jason went up to a group of hoochie mamas with his calculator, punched in a couple of numbers then announced "By my calculations you girls are H-O-T-HOT!" and they all just walked away. They were so bummed. They did the talk to the and motion and were all "Cuh...whatevs" Sure it was good to have a bunch of fly honeys spank you and booty dance all up on you, but I enjoy being a dick.

When we first started to dance, I impersonated Steve Martin in the Jerk. I snapped my fingers and stamped my foot sporadically, trying to find the beat. The girls would laugh then walk away. By the time the club filled up, we were in full dance mode. I was perfecting the ugliest dances imaginable. I flailed around like a spastic. I jumped in the air whipping my hands around and hitting other people. There is a certain beautiful freedom to bad dancing. The movement of the body in total expression, free of constraints such as rhythm or style as your hands flail about while others move away from you for fear of being slapped in the face. I certainly was proud of my ugly, ugly dancing.

"Locking rhythms to the beat of her heart/Changing movement into life/She has danced into the danger zone/Where the dancer becomes the dance/It can cut you like a knife/If the gift becomes the fight"-Theme from FlashDance

I was so caught up in the frenzy of it all. I took of my sweater vest and was swinging it over my head while trying to sing along to songs I've never heard before. I threw the sweater into the crowd with a cheer (afterwards I couldn't find it. I assuming someone had taken it home to cherish it) I was dancing on tables and jumping on peoples' backs. I was a madman of oscillation. I had fully realized myself as a vessel intended to trip the light fantastic. I had become the dance and there was no turning back.



Soophie Nun Squad is possibly the funnest show you'll ever see. Mix in I Farm, the Monsignors, and the Beastie Boys along with silly costumes, puppet shows, a whistle, some crazy dance moves and 11 kids who spazz out, and you might get a idea of what it's like. This interview was done in June 03 and I took the photos from their show 2 years prior at the Fireside.

First of all, I like the liner notes, so if you could begin explaining, maybe a shortened version of that for people who aren't familiar with your band, how many people you have, how long you've been together, etc.
Nate: (vocals) There's about 11 of us, we're scattered all over the country, usually we come back a couple times a year, couple weeks at a time, or even a couple days at a time, usually we defeat logical odds and you know try to make magic happen in the space of 45 minutes or whatever. We started this band when we were about 14 or 15 years old. Now we're all in our mid-twenties
Dustin: (guitar) We just had our 10th year anniversary show
Nate: Yeah just last weekend. I think a lot of the focus of the band right now as far as importance, a lot of the realities our daily lives, our work lives, our physical lives-
Fireside Bouncer: You got to leave otherwise we'll get a loitering ticket
Eli: (Bass) We just got kicked out of the bar because we don't have IDs on us
Bouncer: You got to start moving your stuff out. We can't have people sitting outside.
(Soophie Nun Squad packs up their stuff and about 15 minutes later we continue the interview around the corner)
I heard something about you guys playing shows in laundry mats.
Justin: I think we did that once
Maralie: (vocals and sometimes accordion) The Fun Wash
Nate: It was about 3...3 and a half years ago, we happened to be back together for the period of about a couple of days, every single one of us
Dustin: (guitar) Not me, I wasn't there.
Nate:So, we decided to get together, we had to record a song for a compilation anyway. We got together, our minds started cooking and there was like this 30 hour period when we worked on writing a song recording a song, mixing it, we decided to set up show, the next night.

Maralie: No, that very night at midnight, we decided because that day we made flyers and all that kind of stuff
Nate: And so, we came up with the concept of a show, like a context for the show which was to have a benefit for Food Not Bombs, but to have the show in an out of context place and just see how it would go over and bring a little excitement into the town. So we picked out a 24 hour laundry mat called the Fun Wash and set up a time and date for the show and everything, got all the bands together, started writing a zine, completed a 20 page zine that night, printed the zine distributed it, flyered it the next night for show at the laundry mat, had people donate clothes and money for food not Bombs and stuff.
Maralie: The fun part was during the show, all the clothes that were donated, we we're washing them at the very moment, so there were all these washing machines going off
Eli: It was videotaped on the premise, and Nate's address was in the zine, so the next morning the cops show up at his parents' house, knocking on the door, asking us what kind of cult we were in
Nate: The cult officer came to my house. He couldn't find any cult activities so he just sat in the car and read the zine
Do you guys do a lot of direct action stuff as a band like that or was it just that once?
Dustin: I always want to play rest stops on tour. We rarely ever get to fully do all the things we want to
Anna: I always wanted to play gay bars and dog parks
Mike: (vocals) We rarely exist in the same city for longer than 48 hours before we set out to tour or record, so a lot of the ideas we have end up being more spontaneous than...you know these things that we try to plan besides touring and recording. It's hard because we live in about 8 states usually as the year goes on
Did you guys all grow up together?
Mike:Yeah
Then moved apart?
Maralie: Yeah to college
Eli: 5 of us started the band about 11 years ago and it added and grew, as college and so on happened we moved across the country. Thinking maybe it would end but never did.
Mike:There's no Ivy Leagues in Arkansas
Can you technically be a kid forever?
Nate: Why would you want to be?
Mike: I don't think there's anything bad with getting old at all. I think growing old is the funnest thing that's ever happened to me.
Nate: There's a lot of mystifications about youth or whatever There's a lot of exalting qualities, and qualities that you want to hold on to in yourself as you develop, and projecting those on to an idea of youth. Taking a lot of positive values and a lot of energy and a lot of creativity and kind of letting that fit somewhere in your brain under the idea that it's youthful. A lot of that is really emerge, at least speaking for myself, moving through the world, getting older and getting stepped on more and learning from that, growing from that

AN EXPRESSION OF A SINGLE RHYME GIVES ME THE PROVOCATION EVERY SINGLE TIME I FEEL THE INSTRUMENTAL AND IT CALLS ME STILL- I GOTTA JUMP AROUND AND GET WITH THE REAL

Eli: There's no problem with losing your youthful energy while gaining adult experiences, there's a balance you can have that's totally worth it of course.
Nate: When we were 18, we would never would have said that, because we had absolutely nothing to base it on. We were terrified that we were going to lose all of our hair, succumb to-
Anna: Being young is just like gender or race or something. You're part of it. What you think you attribute to the idea of youth is a really parcel of being alive and human. I saw these women in Philadelphia at the Mayday picnic, these Muslim women eating ice cream cones, I was like, I didn't want to cute-ify it. So I was like "That's so... great", like stop thinking of the word cute, that's so child-like but it's not. What's wonderful is like the pattern of human things that you're allowed to do, that you want to do and people forbid
Mike: If getting older is keeping a checkbook, blah,blah,blah,blah,blah, blah then that's a very narrow idea of what getting older is and I think that once you get old enough you realize that is a narrow way, that you don't have to follow that way if you don't want to.
Who are Snow Bear and Melvin? Did they try to harm you in some way?
Maralie: Well I only experienced Snow Bear, which was in Columbus, Ohio What year would that have been?
All: 99
Maralie: 99, yeah, We had this water jug outside of La Bamba's burritos and this guy just walks up and takes it from us and I said "Hey, that's our water jug" and we all kind of crowd around like "What's up? That's our water jug" and he got really, really upset and he's like (In funny Snow Bear voice)"No, this mine, this belongs to Snow Bear" and then one of my friends just snatched it out of his hands and he got really upset and was trying to start a fight. It was just really intimidating and scary but he continued about being snow bear
Anna: He creeped around the bushes, he was waiting for us to leave

RATTLE ONE TWO THREE THAT'S ALL YOU GET
CUT YOU OFF LIKE A TOURNIQUET

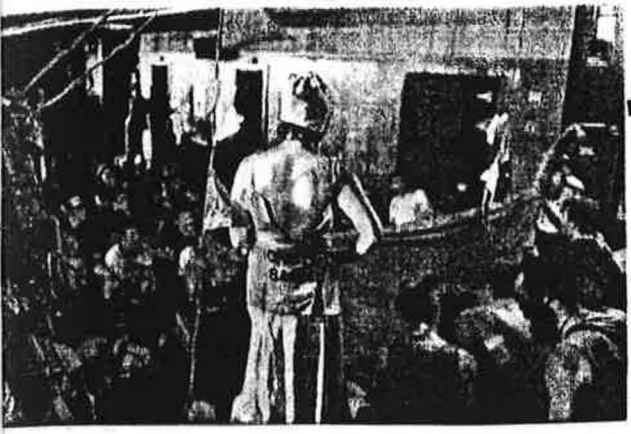
li: He threatened to beat everyone of us up. It was a bunch of other
ands actually, it wasn't just us. It was us,
ike:His Hero is Gone, Bread and Circus(everyone names bands) There's a
eally tough band called Everyone Asked about You(Laughter) They would've

eared him all over the earth.
istin: So Melvin, someone we ran into the
ar before on another tour in Savannah,
eorgia and we were waiting for our friend
ite over here-
adieNate:Hi
istin: to let us into his
artment, but it was locked
rom the underside or some-
hing. It was like 3 in the
orning and we were like " We
eed to find a place to sleep"
nd a dude came by and was just
ike talking with us, he was
eally nice to most of us
ike: He looked like Jimmy Buffet, kinda
ustin: He said "You know, I got a condo you can stay
n and you know, you could throw me a couple of dollars,
t would be cheaper then getting a hotel." Against a
ouple people's wills, most of the band went over to
elvin's house, which is like a one room condo with two
loors
ike: That obviously was not his
ustin: We were scared and so we kissed each other good
night for the last time
li: Our final photograph
ustin: And a couple people didn't go in, they thought
e would be chopped up in the morning
li: The fact is we did wake up in the morning and he was
lying on the floor with drool hanging out of his mouth
and was holding a butcher knife. So we snuck a 20 dollar
bill in his pocket and snuck out, before he could wake up.
He was a little drunk at night-

SO DON'T BE AFRAID OF
THOSE DREAMS WE MADE!
AND THERE'S NO TIME TO
TEAR APART BECAUSE THIS
IS IT AND NOW WE ARE LETS
GO ADVENTURING BECAUSE
THIS TOWN'S KILLING ME!

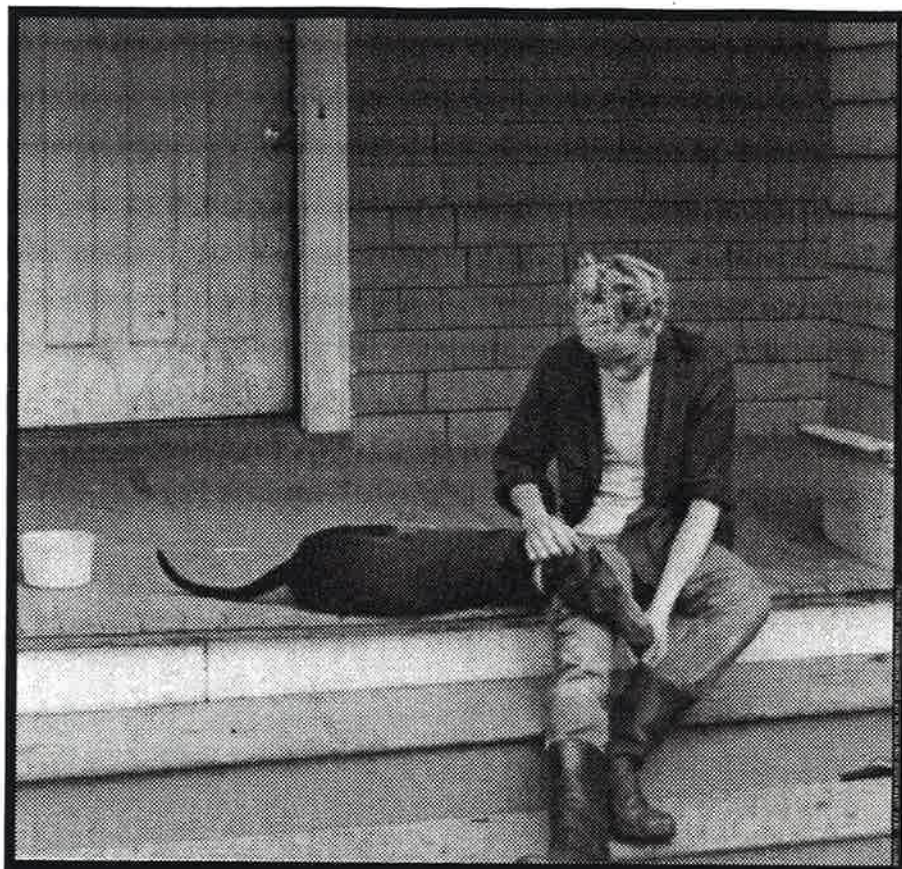
Nate:He was listening to Janet Jackson when we had crept downstairs to see where our friends who snuck out had gone
Eli: We thought maybe his plan was to kill us and rob us, but we were a little too nice and sweet and so he kinda got to where he liked us, let us sleep, and maybe even decide in the morning what to do. So we kinda got out on the sly
Dustin:So that was the story of those two characters.
You guys did a tour of Europe? How did that come about? Did you book it yourselves or go with another band?
Nate: Maybe, like 8 months before that or maybe 10 months before that, this guy named Daniel from Germany wrote " Hey, I'd really like for Soophie to tour Europe, Let me know if you want to and I'll set it up for you" I was like "Ohh, It's that easy. OK" and we worked it out, on a logistical level, it's similar to touring America, on a personal level and like interaction level, the accommodations are very different. You get 2 meals a day. The kids cook you breakfast or get you breakfast and make you dinner before the show. All the bands come and eat together.
Eli: We did 8 countries in 30 days. Played every single night drove ridiculously large differences to get to the shows. It was a little stressful and a little harsh. But when you show up, there's bunks and food and they really take care of you, just understanding that you're so far away from your comfort zone. The well set up system over there that would be maybe the main difference.

Maralie: We're going back in September.
Where the shows bigger? I got to think that they would appreciate the opportunity to see a band a lot more than kids in the US which might take for granted that all their favorite bands are here. Were they set up in basements or..?
Nate: Most of the places we played were squats. But the squats there were not like the squats here.
Eli: They have huge hotel rooms
Mike: ..fully set up, nice bathrooms, built and run by these kids. I would say 90%, different philosophy like they tried to actually keep everything clean and nice where as it's just a little different. I mean they wouldn't let us wash our dishes generally speaking. They're like "We're your hosts It's just really, really nice.
Eli: I'm sure that in Germany, there's German bands that don't have nice turnouts, but being a band from overseas. There was really nice turnouts of people participating. It took us a while to learn how to get that audience participation thing we strive for, but after a while we got pretty good at it. I mean 95% of the shows went by really well
Dustin: No body really knew who we were either. I think some people told their friends, but for the most part random turnouts.
Anna: There was some action on the chat rooms from show to show. it's like interesting, There's a lot of communing between cities that are very, very far apart.
Mike: There were photographs up on the web of some of the early shows before we even got to the end of the tour
You guys seem really nice, really friendly when you're on stage, but is anyone in the band a bully? I know there's brothers in the band.
Mike: Yeah, my little brother plays drums.
Nate?: We all get in fights, we can all be mean sometimes
Dustin: We've known each other way to long to take some things too lightly some times, yaw know earlier I think I slapped Mike off stage
Anna: You got to get over it though.
Eli: But if we slapped you, you might go away thinking we were really mean, but if we slap each other we're going to get over it because we're going to sleep next to each other at night.
Anna: I expect a slap.
Nate: We know each other and somewhere in between 9 and 15 years, most of us
Eli: Which is longer than I've known my own sister
Anna: We like each other and know each other
Is that all that it comes down to, slapping?
Eli: No, we kick and put dirty socks in each other's mouths
Anna: hungry, grumpy and snap and get something shoved in our face and apologize
Nate: It's difficult cause there's a total of 11 people in the band and in different proportions basically everyone is kind of like a pompous loud-mouth like 30 to 70% of the time and that version is really hard to handle for most of us when the different proportions happen different for outside folks to come into the scene, you know have fun during the course of the day sometimes well be like(makes computer vroom noises while pushing hands back and forth)
Mike: I think there's a level of irony in the sarcasm we have with each other, doesn't always translate when people come into our group, it seems like we're making fun of them in a way. Just like last night, we were staying in a big garage and every time someone walked in we would laugh. we thought it was funny and most people thought it was funny, but one fellow walked in and was like and made a certain face. I could see the frontal lobe of his brain melting before our very eyes. What a bummer.
Eli: being generally nice might be one of the aspects that we do try to be onstage, like be one of the... not necessarily a goal of the band, but it's something we strive for.



Anna: Soophie honors the golden rule
OK, one more question, "You win 5 million dollars in the Publisher's sweepstakes and the same day what's-his-face hands you a check, aliens land on Earth and say they're going to blow up the world in 2 days. What are you going to do with the money?"
Dustin: Well, if they're gonna to blow up the

:th then nothing
ıa: How much Gatorade can you buy with a million dollars?
:e: This question is from Heathers, right?
ıh
ıa: I thought it was from like Clerks or something
ɜtin: I'd want to put out the Soophie Coffee book table, real fast.
:alie: Coffee table book.
this something your seriously thinking about doing?
ɜtin: Oh yeah
:e: I would take my part of the money and go give hugs to everybody and go find the
ɣe of my life in Brazil, my friend Gabriella. (laughter) I meet her at Disney World
long time ago and we tried to write letters to each other but the Post Office kept
ɟewing it up and I seriously have a Soophie song about this person. We actually got
ɟew letters across. I would go to Brazil to find her and give her one last
ɟet kiss.
ɣ many Soophie Songs are pretty much unreleased?
ı: over a hundred
ɜtin: We do pretty good at recording our recent ones
:alie: And there's so many songs too, just to entertain ourselves, especially on
ives on tour that we come up with spontaneously that we just keep adding on, and
ɔse are songs because we come back to them, never in the recording we'll come back
them and try to relive them, but not really in recording. There's a lot
ɜtin: Yeah, they might not ever leave the car
:e: Sometimes they will evolve into functional Soophie songs or performance songs,
: usually the gestation period of our songs is close to 3 years, probably. It takes
ıot to build up layers.
ɜtin: 5 years,
ı: We used to have this amazing idea that we were going to record and mix an album
one day, but none of our songs were ever fully realized. Last time we
:orded for almost two weeks, each of those types of songs finally
ɔmalized. In the future we'd like to do more of that
:e: And it's also very different, Our friend Tim, whose
here right now, he's our engineer now. He's building
studio for a/long time. We recorded in his house
slept in the studio and slept on couches and ate food
ıle we were recording and wrote parts while other people
:e eating, it was like a very focused entrenched. It was
ɟery different attitude.
ıt's pretty much it unless you want to add something.
ıa: Sprinkles.



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I've always wanted to make in into the crime beat section of the newspaper. I'm not so much interested in getting busted as publically being recognized as baffling the coppers. The kids I hang out with in DeKalb have made the school paper a number of times due to their mischief. Once they were mentioned in an interview with the woman who makes up the marque for the neon sign of a local eatery. She was q uoted as saying that the things that go bump in that night had their way and everytime she put up the word 'gyro' it would get changed to orgy. The sign was made to say 'Mom called have an orgy.' This made the paper but my countless other sign changes pulled in a big flock of nothing from the press. Not even when I threw the first 'B' away from the McDonalds sign that read 'Brats are back' They also made the paper several times for a stolen head of the campus gargoyle statue. The funny part about that incident is that Brandon and Lindy overheard some Frat guys bragging about how they stole it. Needless to say I

HOW I ALMOST GOT INTO THE NEWSPAPER

Wordsmithing: Mark Nowotny

Photographic Soul Stealing: Colin McAuliffe

was jealous. People should be lying about my exploits. I consider myself much more trouble-bond them them and they already have a scrapbook going. I figure I'll try to get into the newspaper anywhere, you know get a buzz going. Over the summer, my friend Colin had a paid internship at a local paper. He was a photographer for the Daily Southtown, which pretty much covered the towns south of I55. He'd always tell me about the assignments he had to shoot like senior citizens playing bingo or cult-like friendship weddings where large groups of kids would dress up like a real wedding and get married. It sounds cute but is very, very creepy instead. Another assignment was Circus Boy. To kick off the summer reading program, the library featured the amazing talent

of Circus Boy! The guy didn't even wear a costume. He just juggled a little, rode a tiny bike, and hit on the moms...a lot. Anyway, I had always planned on Colin taking a photo of me to get into the paper. I told him to warn me a head of time when a good assignment came up. He almost shot a Jr. High dance, but it didn't pan out. I would've bought a too small suit and gotten my boogie on with some of the pre-teen ladies. Time was running out, soon there were only 3 days left. I figured I could stand in the background or something. The next day I was feeling Quite handsome that day, so I was ready to have my picture taken. Colin's assignment was a pizza party sponsered by the library. He also had to shoot a stand alone, which is a single photo not related to a story, usually kids flying kites in a park or some such like that. I figured if I didn't make it into the first shot I could probably just stand next to a tree and lift a little kid over my head or something. When we followed the directions on the assignment sheet, we came to a strip mall with no library in sight. We soon found out the party was at Haunted Trials... Totally AWESOME!! For those not in the know, Haunted Trials is like a spooky version of Chuck E. Cheese. They had mini-golf, go-cart racing, an arcade, games, etc. All the kids were already eating, so I headed to the token machine and started to play games. After Colin finished his job, he joined me. After breaking the soccer machine we

Left: Oh dear, I've soiled my pants!
Right:...Or have !?
Bottom: Colin, the Irish Werewolf

decided to trade in our tickets. I went for the classic disappearing ink bottle and a bouncy ball. Colin got a bloody finger and some fangs. We then drove around to find a park for his pick up shot. We found a skatepark on the map and Colin had his deck in the car. WE got their and it was unbelievably shitty. It was an empty tennis court with a quarter pipe, a spine, and a small rail. I've seen better set-ups in kids' backyards. The coping on the quarter pipe was a lot higher than the deck. I tried disasters but couldn't get my wheels over it. I did some 5-Os and Smith grinds while Colin clicked away. I furrowed my brow and pursed my lips for the shots. In all objectivity, I gotta say I was rocking it pretty hot. The kids there could feel the electricity in the air. They interrupted our photo shoot with questions about what were we shooting for, was I sponsered, etc. One even pointed out that Colin's finger was bleeding/it was actually a really fake looking plastic bloody finger he won at Haunted Trails/ Colin told them we were shooting an exclusive photo spread for Shazzbutt! After the magic, we headed to the newspaper office and came up with a fraudulent caption about me doing tricks to please my adopted son. The next day, Colin flipped through the paper but no luck, the photo didN't make it in. Some long winded writer blabbed on and the photo didn't run. I was crestfallen. I guess I'll have to resort to my back-up plan of bombing gas stations.

The photo and caption: Mark Novotny, of Bolingbrook, performs a trick for his son, Eddie (not pictured), age 2 at the skate park located at Memorial Park in Chicago Heights. The two were visiting family in Chicago Heights fo Eddie's birthday.

I don't screw around_I mean business_I am here to stay._I will put my foot down_I am the bottom line_You can also find me listed under:Snake BiteGaydarWorlds Greatest_I lead a Dot Com lifestyle_ I put my petal to the metal everyday_The meals are warm and the women are cold_In the Dot Com world nobody is here to back you up_You have a gun against your back at every waking moment_ That's just part of living in a Dot Com world_My Life is Shitty but you Envy Me_My life is recorded on the Internet _Every waking moment of my existence is there on my website_Did you know my site is number 10,678 of a possible trillion websites about other people?_ That's a pretty good number considering there is a trillion others_I bet those people don't lead real Dot Com lifestyles but fake ones_When both of my parents died I vowed to make a difference in the world by choosing a lifestyle that no one would see fit_I chose seclusion_I

My Existence Is Tough

True Confessions from a Dot COM Lifestyle.

chose not to bury my parents in a traditional fashion but to animate them and give them new life on the World Wide Web_My puppet show is the only one like it_I always have the fear of being shut down by the "man"_The "man" wants to take my website off the Internet because it is so true to life_They don't want foreigners to learn the true secret about America or whatever country I am in right now_I really can't say because I am not at liberty to do so_My life is hard_I make my own meals and burn my own toast_The girls find it absolutely easy to resist me because they know if they were to get involved with me they would have to lead a tough lifestyle_Girls don't like to lead tough lifestyles because they hate opening the door for themselves or getting a job that doesn't involve sewing or whatever they do with yarn_Sometimes when I write about my life on my Dot Com I get scared that people are getting too close to me_When I hit the send button I think, "Oh dear god. They will find

out about the children_Why did I write that?" other times I am like, "Oh yes. Finally someone will know about the urine and strands of hair I stashed under that rock so that future generations can clone me" _I don't think that people realize what I am doing for them_I am making a time capsule but not in a tube under some tree_I am making an Internet time capsule_This is easier because you don't have to dig up stuff and get dirty_I don't want people to think that I am out to make them lead tough lifestyles like my own by digging up tubes with notes and urine vials_People should not lead this lifestyle _It is hazardous to their health_I sometimes eat food that I order from the online world because I can't go outside_If I were to show my face to the world they would be too amazed by my grizzled but handsome looks_My body has been chiseled by wasting countless hours behind a computer_My fingers have been lined with an array of calluses from the keyboard and mouse_My six-pack is like a 24 case because of the countless times my computer chair has thrust back and forth_I am constantly exercising, twenty four seven_You should feel lucky to be reading this_As you know the economy has suffered and closed many of the nearest outposts in the jungle called the Internet_Food has become scarce_Electronic stores resell dead merchandise_I am the ultimate warrior though_I put my existence to the true test_A Dot Com life style is not for the faint of heart_How would you feel if your favorite Venture store suddenly closed down and became a K-mart and then suddenly closed down again and turned into an empty store?_I bet you might die because you could not take the stress_ Where could you find low prices?_Where could you find an eatery worth spending your hard earned money?_It is nowhere now because you would be dead from being over excited_ It is hard being me but at least I am not afraid of being in my Dot Com world. ▌▌▌▌▌▌▌▌▌▌▌▌ -James Moy "The Asian Sensation" Osterhout

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show reviews

reggie & the full effect» feb 17th 2003 record breakers

First off the new Reggie Album is on Vagrant. Vagrant, Victory, Fat, Epitah, all the "big" time labels suck for a majority of reasons, So I feel strange covering bands on said labels. Just because a ~~kk~~ good band is ~~mk~~ on a label I dont agreem with doesn't mean that their music is any diffrent. ~~I think these labels are shit because of a variety of issues, reasons.~~ The issue off when a band sells out usually comes when they choose to move to a larger label because the previous is no longer good enough to reach "new audiences" and get "better distrobution" This is all in an effort to expand punk rock. I we heard the argument that the reason why people deem a band a sellout is because their favorite band is no longer their special thing. I think this arugment is frivileum. I don't think that any punk/hardcore bands should be on majors and I wish that there weren't labels like Fat who use distros that are owned by corporations like Sony. My prob with any band that signs to a major is that they've sold out. The deal is that no punk band magically formed. They came from a scene of people who influenced them, who budilt a scene based on a place where music could be made DIY. This allowed future

Reggie and the Full Effect

bands a system for them to play to an audience and available labels to put out their releases. I'm pretty sure NuMetal bands or boy bands didn't come from these types of scenes that allow bands to nutune and grow. So when a band sells their hip, cutting edge "sound" to a major, they're selling out a scene that worked so hard to keep corporate interference out of the music scene that originally snubbed them. What a fuckin insult. Look at the bands that are scorching up the charts-New Found Glory, Blink 182, Jimmy Eat World, Thursday, etc. They're all generic. They all play the same tired sound of better bands before them, but chose to market themselves to an audience that never heard the bands they were ripping off. Screeching Weasel didnt want to sign

ut Green Day did. Tell me which was bigger in the punk scene? he label can't sign the hot band but signs the rip offs. ause the consumers eat it up because it's all new to them. Label like Vagrant is bullshit. The Get Up Kids are just a otal Promise Ring Rip off, for sure. But the fact is that like Reggie and the Full Effect, he writes quality songs. his show was free at a record store. Reggie is more of a side oject and thus he hardly ever plays live. This show was one f 5 record release shows/ and the only one not on a coast/ knew it would be packed, so we had to get there early. Me

and 3 of my roomates, headed out, but we had to pick up this girl. We went to her house because she was going to drive. When we got into her car, she said she had to get a car wash first. Who was she trying to impress? She actually stopped off to get a deluxe wash, so by the time we get to the record store the line was wrapped around the building. "Look at all these scumfuck cars" I exclaimed. It was a wonder everyone got in. The place was packed, we couldn't see a thing, we watched the show through some guy's flip out screen on his camcorder. Later I got up close and snapped some pics. The show was great, but the funny thing is Reggie's so elusive, there's no pictures of him on the cd. It could have been anyone playing that night. He kept forgetting the words to his own songs, so he would just mumble through or make Bobby McFarren-like noises. It was just Reggie playing on a piano and a sequencer. The songs sounded different on a piano. Especially when he covered 'Reign in Blood' by Slayer. All the songs were wierd half-assed versions of his songs. I dug it, He played 'Better for you' on the piano with the sequencer beat going too fast. He fucked around and played bits of songs. Reggie rules, but I strongly encourage you to tape, burn, download, as well buy used CDs or steal from a corporate chain store.

KungFu Rick

andrew wk
awrence arms» feb 21st 03 niu

I didn't really care about going to see this show until I found out the Lawrence Arms were playing. The show was about 3 blocks from my house, so we took our sweet time getting to the show. We completely missed the new metal band that opened. I heard they were booed the whole time. Then how was at the Duke Ellington Ballroom, it also required a ticket which I didN't have. I scoped the place out for about 10 minutes. This kid, the Mooth, came out

off the show into the hallway. I grabbed him hand and rubbed his fresh stamp onto my hand. I just straight up walked in, no one checked my hand or asked for a ticket. The security was busy patting down other people as they walked in. Inside, the Lawrence Arms were already playing. It was the worst I have ever seen them. The sound was awful. You couldn't even hear the guitar or bass. The vocals were minimal. It was all drums. Their professional sound bordered on parody. yes, it was that bad. I've seen the Lawrence Arms many, many times and usually about 10 feet my away not 30ft with a barrier with jocks giving them the finger the whole time. It was awful. After about a 45minute wait /I'm serious/ Andrew WK came on. He burst on stage with that Miller time song "PARTY! LET'S PARTY! mumble, mumble, mumblePARTY!" Everyone got excited, sang along, pumped fists, etc. but I don't think anyone knew the other words between party. It sounded like 300 people mumbling. I don't really care about Andrew WK, but it seemed like everyone else was super pyched to see him. There was about 30 people I knew at the show. Andrew played the same song rewritten 8 times, he did all his reuntine moves, the kicks, the face twitching, and head banging. The thing that sticks out most in the fuckin goon security guards.

They were looking to toss out anyone for even moving, literally. When a giant circle pit started one stood in the middle, to do what? Direct traffic? make sure everyone was going counter clockwise? Some kid started to dance next to him and the security guard was threatening to kick him out. 2 off my friends got kicked out for crowd surfing. It was a tame show. The jock mosh was at a minimum. Security wasn't even needed, but they were trying to kick out everyone who moshed. My roomate Eddy was doing a goofy dance in place

Kungfu Rick

when a fat security pig grabbed his sweatshirt and yelled "Come with me" I wasn't having that shit. I rushed them both and tried to push Eddy away from the asshole. I pryed the stoakhead's fingers off, then he tried to grab me. I dropped down and burrowed through a bunch of knees and feet. I guess he was trying to grab my sweatshirt, but I kept tunneling through about 60 people and dudes I knew kept standing in front of him. When I popped up, I saw the pig going in the wrong direction. I was pissed though, I didn't even care about WK, I was ready to depants one of the guards, but there were no more incidents around me. After the show, there were rumors that Andrew might be going to my friend Peggy's house. She lived right across the street and was on the activities board that put on the show. Peggy's roomates had baked him a cake, which I ate. My roomates laten came over and stole the leftover Andrew WKake and got him to sign the pan. There was a big fuss over the stolen treat, but I didn't care, I had successfully snuck into the show and ate most of that fucker's cake.

kungfu rick final show "march 8/9th '03 fireside bowl/tod dd's base me 2?

KungFu Rick

The offficall last show was at the Fineside. StepForward Look Went opened up. They remind me off Ruination, but I never got into them. La Mantra de Fhiqria played next. They played a great set off screamo math rock. I think they're ~~mmm~~great but it seems they don't do enough as a band. They don't play that many shows/or even show up/ and hardly put out records. Rumor is they may be breaking up, but they had a new guitarist at this show. Next up was Since by Man who are now on Revelation. They're pretty good. My friend Ben thinks their singer poses to much cause he's always pointing, but whatever. KungFu Rick played last. In their first 10 seconds off playing, the crowd was pushed on to the stage, Durkin was lost somewhere in the crowd, and I got punched by the Dark Enforcer. The show was crazy! KFR ripped through a shit load of songs. They usually play for about 15 minutes, but they played double their usual set. By the end Durkin was blasted. He caught an elbow to the forehead and it looked like he was going to pass out on more than one occasion. After the show I went over to Mike and Derrick's

apartment and warewere drawing pictures of what we thought each other looked like naked. I think I really captured Mike and Ray's essence. It was pretty chill until Jason

burst into the room into the room, wearing his boxers and screaming. He was ridingha skateboard and waving a 4 foot broad sword and a dagger. He was like a true thrashard, a wild indian from outer space, drunk and high on weed. He was wobbling, and people were ducking out off his way. He then stabbed the swond into the hard wood floor, put a

KungFu Rick

boot on his hand, did half a cart wheel then ran off. A little while later, about 7 off us all took off our shirts and went downstairs to the ugly girls' apartment. Our plan was to ask them for extra shirts because we were having a t-shirt shortage upstairs, but they weren't home. There was a secret basement show the next day in DuPage, a friends only affair. I went down with those Frontside characters, they were supposed to play along as Infestation off Ass, whose singer filled in as the Dark Imposter on a couple of occasions. We arrived at Todddd's house a little early, so we went to the local Wild Oats. It was free sample day. The group off us just noamed the aisles for about 30 minutes. The gnaat thing about free samples is that you can pick anything off the shelves and no one knows the

Since By Man

difference. Me and Derrick stopped at the ~~juice table~~ organic juice table and kept drinking little shots off fruit juice. "keep 'em coming" we said as the server kept pouring cup after cup from 15 minutes. We grazed some more then returned to cleanse our

palates. We got back to the show and sat around, IOA played first. Sunday shows are pretty blah, so everyone just sat around and watched. Frontside played next. Mike's bass stopped working. He tried to correct the situation, got frustrated, then just stood around ackwardly as the rest of the band kept playing. He took off the bass then looked at it, sort off like a confused caveman and then started to kick it. He borrowed another bass, but then at the end of their set, Derrick grabbed the bass and smashed it to the ground. It bounced and hit my foot, then he threw it into the drums. ~~Earl called it the dreamsicle of their set, their~~

Earl called it the dreamsicle off their set, then yelled u out "Never give up, guys" that guy cracks me up. Later during KFR's set, he was carrying around the Dark Enforcer and stuck his head in the bass drum while banging on the side. KFR played the same songs as the night before. Overall, I think the fireside show was better, but they missed out on the unmasking off the Dark Enforcer. His trademark ski mask was taken offf and it wasn..it was...hideous. I can't ever describe it. It looked like a deformed face had been melted offf. But he could have just been wearing pantyhose on his face. Afterwards we went out for burritos. The End.

KûñgFû Rick

Born Against

Have you considered that while you raise your fist in support of the freedom seeking hordes, your other hand holds between the yellowed foul smelling fingers a smoldering instrument which destroys freedom and cheapens life. Your "second hand" toxic waste fills the lungs of innocent bystanders as well as your own. Your cigarettes are pumped out of laboratories packed with beagles and rabbits suffocating for your "bad habit." The cancer sticks are sold by women masquerading as hunks of flesh. The same newspapers that advertise the poison reveal, upon closer investigation, that more blacks in America die from smoking related diseases than any other drug or violent crime. No surprise considering the media blitz, portraying the goddess with lily white features, and a long slender white cigarette hanging so sensuously from her thin lips, which inundates the African-American community in the form of billboards and other propaganda designed to sell and kill. Twelve year olds watch as you light up, and they aspire to your mature disorder and physical addiction that is smoking every time you buy one of those nice neat little packages from the flag waving, union busting, all American R.J. Reynolds corporation. You will not die with a smile on your face when chemotherapy has made you so fucking weak that you can't even move your bald head or lift another piece of that shit to your shriveled lips. I've watched loved ones wither and die from the innocuous vice, people who were so sure these things only happened to other folks. Don't talk about blowing up Shell stations or boycotting Coke while you are directly killing people and animals. Show respect for yourself and the lives of others in your immediate environment before even pretending to give a fuck about the plight of the oppressed, because the personal is the political.

DYING OF CANCER